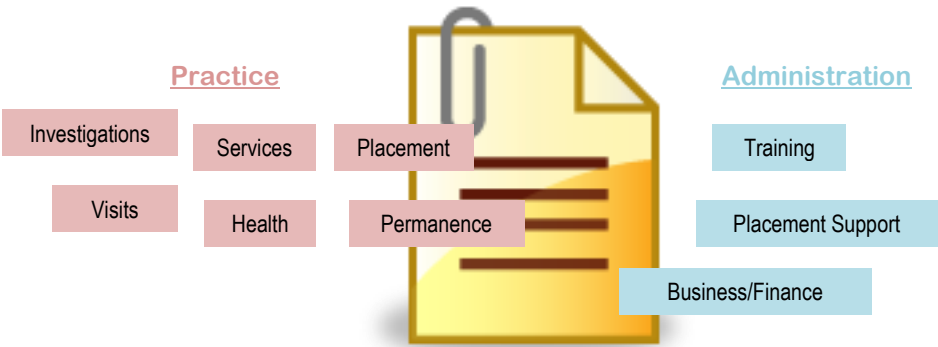


LaShawn: The Final Chapter

In 1989, the American Civil Liberties Union (later Children’s Rights, Inc.) filed the *LaShawn A. v. Barry* lawsuit over the quality of services the District of Columbia was providing to abused and neglected children in its care. Today, the District is working to meet all requirements of an Implementation and Exit Plan (IEP) negotiated in December 2010, so that Federal Court will return control of local child welfare to the city.

What’s required?

- The IEP contains **88 performance standards** (see back) related to . . .
- 9 key aspects** of child welfare practice and administration (below).



Why does it matter?

Investigations		Speedy first response protects children from abuse/neglect and prompt services help troubled families. Families stay together whenever possible.
Services		Sufficient array of effective resources helps children and families overcome crises, change circumstances that place children at risk, and heal.
Placement		Less trauma of removal for children placed in safe, stable, quality settings for the shortest possible time
Visits		Monitor safety, support child and family progress in healing, maintain family connections, and support foster parents
Health		Promote children’s overall healthy growth and development while identifying and taking care of any special needs
Permanence		Expedite adoption for children who can’t return to their birth families
Training		Social workers, supervisors, managers, and foster parents build and maintain the skills and knowledge for optimum performance
Placement Support		License, manage, and maintain an array of placement options that meets the needs of children and youth who can’t be safe at home
Business/Finance		Operate strong quality assurance, information technology, and other administrative functions and maintain adequate staff and funding to meet demand for services and to continue reforms

What’s the status?

Key:

Achieved

Partially achieved

To be achieved



Baseline: December 2010 (based on 88 standards in Implementation and Exit Plan)



Performance as of November 2015 (Court Monitor Report, January-June 2015)



LaShawn Implementation and Exit Plan: Status of 88 Standards, November 2015		To be achieved	Partially achieved	Achieved
Number in parentheses = Total number of performance standards in that subsection of the IEP		Each colored marker = 1 standard		
Child Protection				
Investigations (3)	■ ■		■	
Acceptable Investigations (1)	■			
Entering Reports into Computerized System (1)			■	
Maintaining 24-Hour Response System (1)			■	
Checking Prior Reports (1)			■	
Investigations of Abuse and Neglect in Foster Homes and Institutions (1)			■	
Services				
Services to Families and Children to Promote Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being (1)	■			
Case Planning Process (developed with family and of good quality) (1)	■			
Community-based Services Referrals for Low- and Moderate-Risk Families (1)			■	
Caseloads (1)			■	
Supervisory Responsibilities (2)			■ ■	
Case Planning Process (developed within 30 days of entry into care) (1)			■	
Family Court Reviews (1)			■	
Permanency Hearings (1)			■	
Special Corrective Action (1)			■	
Placement				
Relative Resources (2)			■ ■	
Placement of Children in Most Family-like Setting (2)			■ ■	
Placement of Young Children (2)			■ ■	
Reduction of Multiple Placements for Children in Care (1)			■	
Sibling Placements and Visits (2)			■ ■	
Assessments of Children Experiencing a Placement Disruption (1)			■	
Placement of Children in Most Family-like Setting (no staying overnight in office) (1)	■			
Placement within 100 Miles of the District (1)			■	
Visits				
Worker Visitation to Families with In-Home Services (2)	■		■	
Worker Visitation to Children in Out-of-Home Care (2)	■		■	
Visitation for Children Experiencing a New Placement or Placement Change (2)	■ ■			
Visits Between Parents and Workers (1)	■			
Visits Between Parents and Children (1)	■			
Sibling Visits: See “Placement”				
Health				
Health and Dental Care (5)	■		■ ■ ■ ■	
Permanence				
Appropriate Permanency Goals (4)			■ ■ ■ ■	
Legal Action to Free Children for Adoption (2)			■ ■	
Timely Adoption (timeliness of adoptive placement and finalization) (6)	■		■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■	
Timely Adoption (permanency planning team within 95 days) (1)			■	
Post-Adoption Services Notification (to families) (1)			■	
Post-Adoption Services (1)			■	
Training				
Training for New Social Workers and Supervisors (pre-service) (2)			■ ■	
Training for Previously Hired Social Workers, Supervisors, and Administrators (in-service) (2)			■ ■	
Training for Foster Parents (2)			■ ■	
Timely Approval of Foster/Adoptive Parents (begin training within 30 days of inquiry) (1)			■	
Training for Adoptive Parents (1)			■	
Placement Support				
Timely Approval of Foster/Adoptive Parents (1)			■	
Placement Licensing (1)			■	
Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) (1)			■	
Licensing Regulations (1)			■	
Licensing and Placement Standards (1)			■	
Foster Parent Licensure (1)			■	
Contracts to Require Acceptance of Children Referred (1)			■	
Provider Payments (1)			■	
Foster Parent Board Rates (1)			■	
Business/Finance				
Resource Development Plan (1)			■	
Financial Support for Community-based Services (1)			■	
Performance-based Contracting (1)			■	
Budget and Staffing Adequacy (1)			■	
Federal Revenue Maximization (1)			■	
Reviewing Child Fatalities (1)			■	
Policies for General Assistance Payments (1)			■	
Use of General Assistance Payments (1)			■	
Use of MSWs and BSWs (1)			■	
Social Work Licensure (1)			■	
Needs Assessment and Resource Development Plan (1)			■	
Quality Assurance (1)			■	
Maintaining Computerized System (1)			■	

